THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Indo-German Watershed Development Projesct with German assistance is being implemented in Maharashtra State from 1992. Project is for ten years duration. Total project cost is 12.00 million Duesch Mark (Rs. 321 Million approximately). Presently an area of 25558 ha. is being treated and project report for an area of 15448 ha. is under preparation. Rs. 42.79 Million has been disbursed by NABARD till 31st July, 1995.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Statement on some other externally aided projects in agricultural sector in Maharashtra is enclosed.

Statement

Details of some other Externally Aided Projects in Agricultural Sector being implemented in Maharashtra

Project	Year of Start	Project period	Project Cost	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
National Agricultural Researsch Project-II (NARP-II)— Woorld Bank assisted	1979	16 years	Rs. 2008.00 lakhs	2008.00
National Seeds Project Phase-III (NSP-III)— World Bank assisted	March 1979	6 years	US $ 147.2* Million	956.02
Maharashtra Rural Credit Project with International Fund for Agricultural Development Assistance	Jan., 1994	7 years	US $ 48.3* Million	859.21

*For 11 States including Maharashtra.

Unauthorised Construction by Co-operative Societies

1209. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cooperative Housing Societies in Delhi have been allowed to construct their office buildings and Community Halls, without approval of their plans from the Ministry of urban Development/MCD/DDA;

(b) wheather Punjabi Bagh Cooperative Housing Society. Limited, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi, have constructed their office in Punjabi Bagh unauthorisedly and without the approval of plan by MCD;

(c) whether the resident/members of the Society have represented to MCD and even Chief Minister, Delhi against the unauthorised construction; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir. (b) Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that the Punjabi Bagh Cooperative Housing Society Limited, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi has raised unauthorised construction in the year 1992-93.

(c) Yes, Sir. (d) The unauthorised construction has been booked under the provisions of Delhi Municipal Corporation Act for further action as per policy of the Municipal Corporation.

Handing-over Bailadila Mines to Private Firm

1210. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to hand over bailadila mines being run by the National Mineral Development Corporation to a Calcutta based private firm;

(b) if so, the reasons for handing over this mine to the private sector;

(c) whether it is a fact that an estimated net profit of about Rs. 88 crore every year is expected from this mine for the next 25 years;

(d) whether the Union Ministries of Finance and Labour were against this lease; and

(e) the reasons for not floating any global tender for the lease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Government has permitted NMDC to develop deposit 11-B of Bailadila in joint venture with a private company.

(b) to (e) Steel consumption is one of the major indices of industrial and economic growth of a country. The total demand for steel in India, including estimated exports, is projected to grow 37 million tonnes by 2001-02, by which time production from the existing integrated steel plants and units in secondary sector is expected to reach about 24 million tonnes. The projected gap of 13 million tonnes will have to be met only by private sector investment as establishment of new greenfield plants in public sector is not contemplated. The private sector will, therefore, have to be encouraged if the projected gap between demand and availability is to be met.

Indigenous availability of metal scrap is low and large quantities have to be imported in order to meet indigenous demand. Sponge iron contains a large percentage of metallic iron and is a very good substitute for steel melting scrap. Production of sponge iron is, therefore, being encouraged by the Government in order to conserve foreign exchange. There are 18 sponge iron units in the country at present with total capacity of 5.4 million tonnes. These units produced 3.4 million tonnes in 1994-95 and the production is expected to cross the 4 million tonnes mark this year, with exports expected to touch the one million mark. More sponge iron units with a capacity of 7.39 lakh tonnes per annum are in different stages of execution presently.

There are only 3 gas-based plants in India, namely Essar Gujarat Ltd., Vikram Ispat Ltd. and Nippon Denro Ispat Ltd. and they require calibrated iron ore with Fe content of 65% and above.

Though NMDC had been considering development of Deposit 11-B as a joint venture project since 1991, the proposal could not fructify as the three major iron ore consuming companies, identified as potential joint venture partners, were agreeable to join in the joint ventue only if they were the sole co-promoters with NMDC and the management rights vested in them.

The Steel Ministry examined the issues involved in May, 1994 and advised NMDC that the project may be developed as a joint venture with participation of one of the private companies operating or setting up a gas-based sponge iron plant in the country, who have already an assurance from NMDC to meet a substantial part of the plant's requirement for iron ore. The Government also suggested specific criteria to NMDC for selection of a joint venture partner.

The Board of Directors of NMDC constituted a sub-committee to select a joint venture partner on the basis of the criteria suggested by Ministry of Steel. The recommendations of the sub-committee, accepted by NMDC Board, are as follows:—

(i) To enter into joint venture with one of the following partners in the given order of preference:

  (i) M/s. Nippon Denro Ispat Limited.

  (ii) M/s. Essar Gujarat Limited.

(ii) To transfer a part of the lease of deposit 11-B held by NMDC (i.e. the area comprised in deposit 11-B) to the joint venture company after following the prescribed procedures.

(iii) To seek decision of Government regarding the consideration to be charged for transfer of the mining lease.

The Steel Ministry made an in-depth analysis of the recommendations received from NMDC and submitted a note to the Cabinet for consideration. As regards consideration to be charged for transfer of mining lease, it was felt that it would not be appropriate to treat it as a normal commercial transaction and realize the

maximum consideration because this would render the final product costly and uncompetitive. Moreover, the transfer was proposed to a joint venture company in which NMDC itself is a partner. At the same time, the Steel Ministry felt that NMDC should not be put to any pecuniary loss and should be compensated for the actual expenditure that it had incurred on exploration, feasibility and other preliminary works. The Steel Ministry, hence, proposed that the actual expenditure incurred as above, updated to current costs through an appropriate method to be determined by a recognised professional organisation such as the Institute of Cost & Works Accountants of India (ICWAI), should be recovered from the joint venture partner.

The Cabinet, in their meeting on 30.5.95, accorded approval to development of Bailadila 11-B deposit as a joint venture. Based on this, approval was accorded to NMDC on 13.6.95 to form the joint venture company and take other consequential actions. The interests of the local people and trade unions have been safeguarded by advising NMDC to stipulate in the joint venture agreement that the joint venture company will recruit all skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers through the Local Employment Exchange except to the extent that such workers are not available with the Local Employment Exchange. The joint venture agreement has since been signed on 10.7.95.

Senior Posts in ASI Lying Vacant

1211. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Joint Director General, Additional Director General and Director General and Director General are lying vacant for a long time in A.S.I.;

(b) whether it is also fact that a Professional Archaeologist was heading the Archaeological Survey of India as Director General till 1993 and thereafter a nonprofessional was given charge as Director General for this major organisation; and

(c) if so, the reason why the Professional Archaeologists are not given opportunity to head this Departments monthly; even though many senior qualified professional Archaeologists are currently working in A.S.I.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) After the retirement of the professional archaeologist as Director General no officer of the Survey was found eligible for the post in terms of the extent Recruitment Rules. The Additional Director General (Administration) was given the charge of the current duties of the Director General. The work of Director General, Archaeological Survey of India has now been entrusted to Secretary, Culture.

The Government have proposed amendment of the Recruitment Rules for these posts in consultation with Deptt. of Personnel & Training and Union Public Service Commission to ensure that professional archaeologists of Archaeological Survey of India are given the opportunity to head the Survey.

Education of Tribal Children in Andhra Pradesh

1212. SHRI T. VENKATRAM RADDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of schoolgoing tribal children int the tribal and backward areas of Andhra Pradesh at present; and

(b) whether most of these tribal children in the State are deprived of the right of getting education and opportunities of going to schools for getting elementary/ primary education?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The approximate number of school going tribal children in Andhra Pradesh during 1993-94 is 6.38 lakhs.

(b) No, Sir. Central and State Governments have taken many steps to promote education